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REPORT

OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE, IN REGARD TO APPROPRIATING MONEY
TO

THE COUNTY OF LA CROSSE.

REPORT.

The committee on the judiciary, to whom was referred No. 35, Assembly File, "a bill appropriating a certain sum of money to the county of La Crosse, have had the same under consideration and beg leave to submit the following as the facts upon which the equity of the claim rests :

Wm. Watts was committed to the jail of the county of La Crosse on a charge of murder, from which, before trial, he escaped, without the fault of the sheriff. The sheriff, very shortly thereafter, offered a reward of two hundred dollars for the apprehension of the accused. Under this state of the case Watts was apprehended and delivered to the sheriff. The sum offered was demanded and paid by the county of La Crosse. Watts has been duly tried, convicted, and sentenced to imprisonment in the state prison, where he is now confined. The statute does not require a county to pay sums offered as rewards.

By the statute it is declared that the Governor may offer rewards not exceeding in amount five hundred dollars in cases like the present. It is further provided that the sums so offered shall be paid out of the State Treasury. Chap. 9, Sections 3 and 4 Rev. Stat.

It is therefore evident that we have no statute that will govern a case like the one now presented.

Had the above sum been offered by the Executive the State must have paid it. The objection to the allowance as proposed by

the bill under consideration is therefore purely technical, and, in the opinion of your committee, entirely beneath the dignity of a great State.

Said bill is therefore respectfully reported back to the Assembly with a recommendation that the same do pass.

JAMES H. KNOWLTON,
W. E. WEBSTER,
H. S. ORTON.